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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,099	01/24/2005	Scott Costa	25791.110.05	9492
62519 7590 11/15/2007 HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202-3789			EXAMINER DANG, HOANG C	
			ART UNIT 3672	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/15/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/522,099

**Applicant(s)**

COSTA ET AL.

**Examiner**

Hoang Dang

**Art Unit**

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-170 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-170 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-66, 124-127 and 145-170, drawn to a method or an apparatus.

Group II, claim(s) 67-75, drawn to an apparatus.

Group III, claim(s) 76-84, drawn to an apparatus.

Group IV, claim(s) 85, drawn to an apparatus.

Group V, claim(s) 86-91, 95-103, drawn to an apparatus.

Group VI, claim(s) 92-94, drawn to an apparatus.

Group VII, claim(s) 104-107, drawn to an apparatus.

Group VIII, claim(s) 108, drawn to an apparatus.

Group IX, claim(s) 109, drawn to an apparatus.

Group X, claim(s) 110, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XI, claim(s) 111, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XII, claim(s) 112, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XIII, claim(s) 113, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XIV, claim(s) 114-115, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XV, claim(s) 116, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XVI, claim(s) 117, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XVII, claim(s) 118-119, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XVIII, claim(s) 120-123, drawn to an apparatus.

Group XIX, claim(s) 128-141, drawn to a method of extracting geothermal energy from a subterranean source of geothermal energy.

Group XX, claim(s) 142-144, drawn to a method.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-XX do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The special technical feature of the claims of Group I is the expanding and plastically deforming the first tubular member and the second tubular member or/and tubular sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group II is the internal flange.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group III is the external flange.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group IV is the sealing member(s) between the tubular sleeve and the tubular member(s).

The special technical feature of the claims of Group V is the retaining ring(s) between the tubular member(s) and tubular sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group VI is the end of the tubular sleeve is deformed onto the tubular member(s).

The special technical feature of the claims of Group VII is the structure whose interior surface is contacted by the tubular sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group VIII is the sealing element coupled to the exterior surface of the tubular sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group IX is the metallic sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group X is the non-metallic sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XI is the plastic sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XII is the ceramic sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XIII is the frangible sleeve.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XIV is the longitudinal slot(s) or radial passage(s).

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XV is the amorphously bond between first and second tubular members.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XVI is the welding between first and second tubular members.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XVII is the only portions of the first and second tubular members adjacent the tubular sleeve are deformed.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XVIII is the threads on the first and second tubular members. The special technical feature of the claims of Group XIX is the step of radially expanding and plastically deforming the second casing string within the borehole.

The special technical feature of the claims of Group XX is the step of determining if a predetermined amount of the pressurized fluid leaks through the coupled ends of the first and second tubular members.

The unity between Groups I-XX is lacking since each Group relies on a different special technical feature as explained above.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7028. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:15-5:45 Monday-Friday.

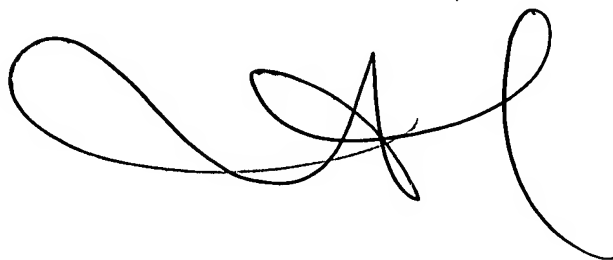
Application/Control Number:  
10/522,099  
Art Unit: 3672

Page 5

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hoang Dang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of smaller, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.